

Remarks

Reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-2, 5, 9-12 and 14-19 are pending.

I. Claim amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to include the language from claim 3. As a result, claim 3 has been canceled.

Claim 9 has been rewritten into independent form to include the language from claims 6, 7 and 8. Claims 6-8 have been canceled.

No new matter has been added by these amendments.

II. Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

A. Claims 1, 5 and 15-18 and Anderson

Claims 1, 5 and 15-18 are rejected under section 102(b) as being anticipated by Anderson, U.S. Patent No. 6,079,908. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order to expedite prosecution, the language of claim 3, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been added into claim 1. Claim 1, and all claims depending therefrom, should now be in condition for allowance.

B. Claims 6-8 and Legault

Claims 6-8 are rejected under section 102(b) as being anticipated by Legault, U.S. Patent No. 5,123,221. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9, which has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter, has been rewritten into independent form in order to expedite prosecution. Claims 6-8 have been canceled.

III. Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 2 has been rejected under section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and is patentable along with claim 1.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 10-12, 14, and 19 and the indicated allowability of the subject matter of claims 3 and 9 are gratefully noted. As indicated above, the remaining claims are believed to be allowable as well.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, all claims should now be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned Attorney with any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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